

THE ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1946 of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTHTo the DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Wymondham, July 1947.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1946. It is regretted that owing to the fact that I was not Medical Officer of Health during the period under review, the report is not so full as it might otherwise have been.

In accordance with the instructions from the Ministry of Health this report is on the lines of that for 1945.

Details of vital statistics for Depwade Rural District are given below.

The estimated population is 580 less than it was in 1945. The birth rate per 1000 of the estimated population in the year under review was 19.62 which shows an increase of 2.6 over the figure for 1945. In 1945 20.5% of the births were illegitimate, but in 1946 the percentage had fallen to 10.9 which is in keeping with the return to somewhat more normal conditions of life generally.

The Still Birth Rate per 1000 total births was 17.8 as compared with 50.5 in 1945.

The Death Rate for the year per 1000 estimated population was 12.62, slightly less than in 1945 for Depwade but slightly higher than for England and Wales which had a rate of 11.5 per 1000. The mortality rate in infants under 1 year was : Legitimate 9.06, illegitimate 3.02 which contrasts favourably with the previous year's figures of 26.93 and 13.46 respectively.

Deaths from puerperal causes continue to be low. One woman died as a result of pregnancy during the year.

No serious epidemic of infectious disease occurred during the year. Amongst children whooping cough caused two deaths thus bearing out its reputation as a serious disease in young children. Measles and diphtheria caused no deaths.

New cases of tuberculosis notified during the year were six in number.

The area of your District is 79,742 acres.

Population. (Registrar General's Estimate) 16,870.

Number of inhabited houses, 1931 census. 5,087. 1946 5,450 approx.

Rateable Value. £47424. Product of 1d Rate. £205 approx.

Vital Statistics for 1946.Births and Deaths.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	161	134	295
Illegitimate	22	14	36
	183	148	331
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Birth rate per 1000 of estimated population : 19.62.

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	3	3	6
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Rate per 1000 total births : 17. 8.

<u>DEATHS.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
	103	110	213

Death rate per 1000 estimated population. 12.62

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal sepsis.	1.	Rate per 1000 live births.	3.02.
Other maternal causes.	0	" " " " "	0.0

Deaths of Infants under One year.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
	2	2	4
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Deaths of infants under one year per 1000 births.

Legitimate. 9.06. Illegitimate. 3.02.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
" " Whooping Cough.(all ages)	2
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	0
" " Diphtheria (all ages)	0
" " Cancer (all ages)	33

The following table shows the number of live births registered in the Depwade Rural District and the figures for England and Wales are given for comparison.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Birth Rate/1000 Depwade.</u>	<u>Birth Rate/1000 England & Wales.</u>
1942.	15.44	14.2
1943.	15.90	15.8
1944.	19.29	16.5
1945.	17.02	16.1
1946.	19.62	19.1

The following table gives a comparison of death rates for the past five years.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Death Rate /1000 Depwade.</u>	<u>Death Rate /1000 England & Wales.</u>
1942.	11.08	11.6
1943.	13.19	12.1
1944.	13.80	11.6
1945.	13.23	11.4
1946.	12.62	11.5

The following table gives the causes of death in 1946.

<u>Causes of Death.</u>	<u>Total all ages.</u>
Whooping Cough	2
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	4
" Other forms.	3
Influenza	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	7
Cancer of breast	4
Cancer of other sites	22
Diabetes	3
Intracranial Vascular Lesions.	23

<u>Causes of Death.</u>	<u>B/ Forward</u>	<u>Total all ages.</u>
Heart Disease		69
Other diseases of circulation.		90
Bronchitis		5
Pneumonia		5
Other respiratory diseases.		8
Ulcer of stomach and Duodenum.		3
Other Digestive Diseases.		1
Nephritis.		1
Puerperal and Post abortive sepsis.		1
Com.Mal. Birth Injuries Infant Dis.		4
Road Traffic Accidents.		4
Other Violent Causes.		2
All other Causes.		19
		<u>213</u>

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year the following notifications of infectious diseases were received:-

Scarlet Fever.	26	Erysipelas	1
Diphtheria	Nil	Puerperal Pyrexia	4
Measles	448	Jaundice	22
Whooping Cough	103	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1
Dysentery	2	Tuberculosis:-	
Pneumonia	27	Pulmonary	6
Malaria	2	Non-Pulmonary	5

Investigations were carried out in respect of the cases of Scarlet Fever and Pulmonary Tuberculosis and disinfections were carried out at 18 premises. 7 cases removed to Isolation Hospital or Sanatoria.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

These remain as in the Report for 1938.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT IN 1946.

WATER: The following Table shows the number of samples taken, with results:-

Samples submitted to Public Analyst.....	16
Samples found to be dangerous to health.....	5
Found to be of poor quality only.....	4
Submitted to bacteriological examination and found to be fit for drinking.....	2

Cartage of water was necessary to the Council houses at Moulton owing to the well going dry.

PIPED SUPPLY:

Chlorination carried out at Harleston.

Two samples were submitted for bacteriological examination by the Local Authority:-

1 each from Harleston and Long Stratton - both satisfactory.

Number of dwelling houses supplied:

	<u>Harleston.</u>	<u>Long Stratton.</u>
1. Direct to houses.	341	110
2. By standpipe.	69	16
3. Estimated population served.	1353	405

MILK PRODUCTION:

Milk (Special Designations) Orders:

' Accredited' licences granted.....50
No. of samples of Accredited milk taken (Methylene
Blue Test.....33

Milk (Special Designations) Orders: (Contd)

No. failed test.....7
No. of samples of Accredited milk taken
(Biological Examination for T.B).....28
No. giving positive result.....Nil.

NOTE: On July 1st., 1946, the licensing of Producers of Accredited milk, and the taking of samples, was taken over by the County Council.

Milk and Dairies Order.

New applications for Registration have been received and the premises have been visited. Advice as to the necessary adaptation or reconstruction of cowsheds and dairies has been given, and the carrying out of these works supervised.

At the end of the year there were 421 cowkeepers and dairymen on the register.

4 samples of 'non-designated' milk were taken for the Methylene Blue test and one failed to satisfy the Test. 13 samples of 'non-designated' milk were submitted for Biological Examination for the presence of T.B. and none gave positive results.

INSPECTION OF FOODSTUFFS.

During the year 1066½ lbs of various foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption, as follows:-

<u>Meat.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>Miscellaneous.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
Beef	30	Cheese	31
Bacon	7½	Biscuits	2
64 tins Corned Beef.	379	Oats and Oatmeal	6
17 " Sausage Meat.	13	Prunes	54
<u>Fish.</u>		Sultanas	28
Mackerel	217	10 tins beans	9½
Dried Cod Fillet	56	6 tins peas.	9
48 Tins Fish	39	1 tin plums	2½
<u>Milk</u>		1 tin soup	1
207 tins Dried milk	103½	1 tin Spaghetti	1
3 " Condensed milk	3	2 tins meat & vegetables	2
73 " Evaporated "	67	2 jars jam.	4

HOUSING:

During the year work has continued, as well as conditions allowed, on the Post-war Housing Programme: 23 brick and 13 Swedish timber houses were completed and occupied, and 84 brick were in various stages of completion at the end of the year.

Complaints under the Public Health and Housing Acts have been investigated and remedied as far as material and labour conditions have allowed.

During the year work was commenced in connection with the Rural Housing Survey.

955 houses were inspected with the following result.

Houses in Category 1.	Fit in all respects.	199
2.	Requiring minor repairs.	219
3.	" major "	347
4.5	Unfit and should be demolished - may include some houses which could be reconditioned.	190

DIPHTHERIA.

Arrangements for the examination of bacteriological specimens have been transferred from the County Laboratory to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Isolation Hospital, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich. The supply of Diphtheria Anti-toxin by the County Council has been discontinued, and practitioners in the District have been asked to make their own local arrangements for procuring it.

IMMUNISATION.

	Under <u>5</u>	Between <u>5 & 15</u>
Estimated number of children in Authority's Area Mid-1946	1280	2440.
Percentage of child population immunised at 31 Dec.1946.	47.57	58.2

SCABIES.

Number of cases notified from various sources.	48
" " receiving institutional treatment.	Nil.

Printed instructions as to the proper course to adopt are distributed to every house where a case is known to have occurred.

Steam disinfection of bedding etc where this is necessary, is carried out at Dereham Isolation Hospital by arrangement with the County Medical Officer.

The Thanks of the Council are due to the Senior and Additional Sanitary Inspectors for their assistance and co-operation during the Year.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

W. W. SINCLAIR.

MB.Ch.B.D.P.H.

